

# Eliminating Syphilis

## Hinds County (Jackson), Mississippi

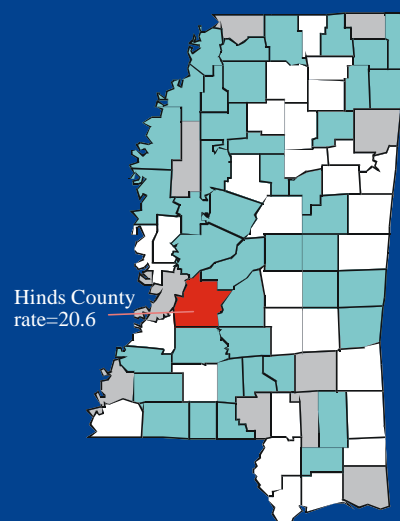
### Why is Syphilis Elimination in the U.S. within our reach now?

- Syphilis is a preventable and curable sexually transmitted disease (STD).
- Infectious syphilis is at the lowest rate ever reported: 2.6 cases/100,000 population (6,993 total cases).
- Syphilis is now very concentrated; half of all new cases in 1998 were reported from only 28 counties, which represent less than 1% of all U.S. counties.
- Other industrialized countries have already eliminated syphilis.

### Why is it Important to Eliminate Syphilis in Hinds County?

- **In 1998 Hinds County ranked 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation** in new cases of infectious syphilis (51 cases) and had a rate 8 times higher than the national rate.
- **To reduce one of the most glaring racial disparities in health**
  - S 86% of cases are among African Americans (79% of cases nationally).
  - S The infectious syphilis rate in Hinds County for African Americans is 38 times greater than the rate for white Americans.
- **To decrease spread of HIV infection**
  - S Syphilis increases HIV transmission at least 2-to-5 fold.
- **To improve infant health**
  - S Syphilis can be transmitted from mother to fetus during pregnancy causing stillbirths or congenital infection, some of which may result in persistent health problems.
  - S In 1998, 5 cases of congenital syphilis were reported from Hinds County for a rate of 126.1 cases/100,000 births, 6 times higher than the national rate of 20.6 cases/100,000 births.

Infectious Syphilis — Mississippi, 1998



■ 0 cases reported    ■ Rate > 4/100,000\*  
■ Rate ≤ 4/100,000\*    ■ One of 28 counties reporting half of new cases in the U.S.

\* Healthy People 2000 objective is 4/100,000

1998 U.S. rate: 2.6 cases/100,000 population

### Hinds County Responds

- A statewide Syphilis Elimination Committee consisting of local public officials and community leaders is being developed to guide the county in syphilis elimination efforts.
- A CDC assigned STD Special Projects Coordinator has been placed to coordinate all STD services in correctional and detention settings.
- A mobile clinic reaches under-served populations in the county.

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